(b) India and the United States have ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism, institutionalised through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. The two Governments are committed to preventing acts of terrorism and neutralising terrorist organisations everywhere in the world.

The United States has prescribed Pakistan-based terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen under its domestic law; asked President Musharraf of Pakistan to crack down on terrorist organisations operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir; end cross-border infiltration into India immediately and permanently; and, take action against terrorist camps in pakistan and pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Building and construction workers in A.P.

243. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of workers in Andhra Pradesh who are engaged in building and construction works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act is strictly being implemented in the State; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures being taken by Government to enforce the Act in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No separate survey has been conducted.

However, as per the 1991 Census of India, there were 4,70,688 construction workers in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Most of the States, including Andhra Pradesh, have not yet adopted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996. Government, however, has been persuading all such States to adopt and implement the Act at the earliest.

Labour reforms

244. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 29th May, 2002 under the caption "panel questions labour reforms";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would have a second look before embarking upon sweeping labour reforms and amend the decade's old Industrial Dispute Act and Contract Labour Act in the light of the objections raised by the panel appointed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The news-item appearing in Hindustan Times dated the 29th May, 2002, relates to the recommendations of the Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year. The Special Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, has suggested that any changes in Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act should be accompanied by appropriate social security measures. The recommendations of the Special Group would be taken into account while carrying out any amendment in these Acts.